

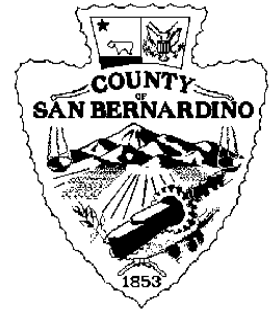
# NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino

[www.sbcounty.gov](http://www.sbcounty.gov)

NEWS ADVISORY

November 18, 2002



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## County shares living proof that car seats save lives

Two parents whose children survived automobile accidents thanks to car seats that had been recently given to them by a county program will speak to the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors during their meeting **tomorrow, November 19, at 10 a.m. in San Bernardino.**

The County of San Bernardino Preschool Services Department (Head Start) and the county's First 5 San Bernardino Commission are working together to provide hands-on education and car restraints and boosters for about 15,000 low-income children in the county.

The training and devices are being provided by the Loma Linda-based Campaign For Alcohol-Free Kids, which was awarded a two-year contract by the First 5 San Bernardino Commission to educate parents on the proper installation and correct usage of child restraint devices in motor vehicles.

Nothing kills more children than traffic collisions. At the same time, anywhere from 80 percent to 97 percent of child restraint devices are misused.

"We have found kids tied into cars with clothesline, infants in front of airbags, and many other problems," said Sandy Golden, president of the Campaign for Alcohol-Free Kids. "With this program, lives are being saved and protected, families are being served, and tax dollars are saving far more than what is being spent."

While the county's First 5 San Bernardino Commission provides the funding for the program, the county's Preschool Services Department is providing the forum for the program by holding the training sessions at its 43 Head Start sites countywide. The campaign plans to complete visits to all 43 sites by the end of December.

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The First 5 San Bernardino Commission, chaired by San Bernardino County First District Supervisor Bill Postmus, allocates the funding generated by the 1998 tobacco tax. The commission has initiated numerous programs with partnering service agencies to optimize early childhood development.

San Bernardino County receives an allocation of approximately \$27 million each year from the statewide, fifty-cent tax on tobacco products. Since the Commission's inception, thousands of children prenatal to age five and their families have benefited from the quality services provided through this program. More information is available at the First 5 San Bernardino website, [www.sanbernardinokids.org](http://www.sanbernardinokids.org).

Golden thanked Supervisor Postmus and Board of Supervisors Chairman Fred Aguiar, chairman of the Head Start Shared Governance Board, for teaming up to make the car seat program work. Preschool Services Director Roberta York also deserves much of the credit for making the program a reality.

Tomorrow's presentation will take place shortly after the regular meeting of the County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors begins at 10 a.m. in the Board's hearing chambers on the first floor of the County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., San Bernardino.